

Town of Harwich Trails Committee

Minutes of March 17, 2016

Present: M. Cushing, .Lach, B. Nightingale, R. Saulnier, G. Schumann, W. Stone, A. Usowski

Absent: C. Berg, D. Callaghan, J. Follas, A. Peterson, R. Sarantis

- I. Chair Matt Cushing called the off-site meeting to order at 3:45 in the Depot Street parking lot for the bike trail.

There was no business meeting. Approved February minutes in April.

- II. Purpose of meeting: Survey and determine best access and trail connection route to recently town acquired Hall property which completes the "Emerald Necklace" around the Herring River West Reservoir.

We walked east along the bike path, climbed over the split rail fencing and through a man-sized hole in the anchor fence and proceeded south across a flat open space and then into the woods above the water. Discussed the use of a few steps to reach the upland. (Seems there has been a change of plan since and stairs can be avoided.) Most of the trail south to the herring run is well established. A short section at the beginning will need to be blazed. It should not be difficult because there is not a lot of tangled, dense understory. It was agreed to stay well west of the water's edge to avoid access down the embankment and subsequent erosion. HCT has submitted a grant to the state to partner funding for split rail fencing marking the town/Hall boundaries, new signage, removal of anchor fence, concrete structures and permit requirements.

The plan is to have the trail ready for summer '16 and included in the third edition of the trail guide! Thank you, HCT! Partnering with you is surely a boon to the town and this committee! The group dispersed and Gerie and Wayne walked the trail to the herring run where they were picked up and driven back to their cars. Everyone is very upbeat and excited!

- III. Meeting adjourned at 5 PM

- IV.

Next Meeting April 21; location to be announced. Perhaps another meeting on site. Please be thinking about committee replacements and volunteer stewards. We have more work to do and at three vacancies to fill.

Gerie Schumann, Clerk